

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 293

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking a child hostage
in order to evade arrest.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mrs. KELLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking
a child hostage in order to evade arrest.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CHILD HOSTAGE-TAKING TO EVADE ARREST**

4 **OR OBSTRUCT JUSTICE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 1205. Child hostage-taking to evade arrest or ob-**
2 **struct justice**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever uses force or threatens
4 to use force against any officer or agency of the Federal
5 Government, and seizes or detains, or continues to detain,
6 a child in order to—

7 “(1) obstruct, resist, or oppose any officer of
8 the United States, or other person duly authorized,
9 in serving, or attempting to serve or execute, any
10 legal or judicial writ, process, or warrant of any
11 court of the United States; or

12 “(2) compel any department or agency of the
13 Federal Government to do or to abstain from doing
14 any act;

15 or attempts to do so, shall be punished in accordance with
16 subsection (b).

17 “(b) SENTENCING.—Any person who violates sub-
18 section (a)—

19 “(1) shall be imprisoned not less than 10 years
20 and not more than 25 years;

21 “(2) if injury results to the child as a result of
22 the violation, shall be imprisoned not less than 20
23 years and not more than 35 years; and

24 “(3) if death results to the child as a result of
25 the violation, shall be subject to the penalty of death
26 or be imprisoned for life.

1 “(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
2 term ‘child’ means an individual who has not attained the
3 age of 18 years.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
5 for chapter 55 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new item:

“1205. Child hostage-taking to evade arrest or obstruct justice.”.

